

### **Measuring diameter at breast height (dbh)**

Tree diameter is measured at 4 ½ feet above ground level. This measure is known as diameter at breast or DBH. Diameter can be measured with diameter tape (available from a forestry or arborist supplier) or you can use a tape measure and convert using this ratio (3" on a tape measure = 1" on a diameter tape).

Measure the tree at 4 ½ feet above the ground. If the tree is growing on a slope, measure the circumference 4 ½ feet from the center of the slope. If the tree begins to branch below 4 ½ feet, measure at the smallest circumference below the first branch (note this on your data sheet). If the tree is multi-stemmed (several trunks at ground level), measure each stem's circumference at 4 ½ feet and list all of them.



**Wrong Way**



**Right Way**

(Illustration taken from <http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/champions/measuring.html>; Division of Forestry, Champion Tree Program, Box 40627, Melrose Station Nashville, TN 37204)